

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: 12-31-81

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: EWG MEETING, OCTOBER 16, 1973: BASIC ISSUES OF DEFENSE

PLANNING: ANTI-ARMOR

SUMMARY. UK AND FRG ENDORSED DEFENSE REVIEW GROUP REPORT ON ANTI-ARMOR DEFENSE AS VERY SIGNIFICANT AND SOURCE OF CONCRETE RECOMMENDATION ON ANTI-ARMOR IMPROVEMENTS. US-SUPPORTED STANDARDS FOR ANTI-TANK WEAPONS SUGGESTED BY REPORT AS STARTING POINT FOR AN EWG RECOMMENDATION. SHAPE REP POINTED TO DIFFICULTIES IN ARRIVING AT STANDARDS FOR INDIVIDUAL UNITS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE CHAIRMAN (GIBSON) OF DEFENSE RESEARCH GROUP PANEL III BRIEFED ON THE DRG ANTI-ARMOR DEFENSE REPORT (AC/243-D/231). HE EMPHASIZED THE GENERAL CONCLUSION THAT ANTI-ARMOR WEAPONS COULD IMPROVE NATO DEFENSES BY A FACTOR OF TWO, BUT NOTED THAT MANY ISSUES REMAIN TO BE STUDIED.

2. THE UK REP INDICATED THAT LONDON VIEWED THE DRG REPORT AS VERY SIGNIFICANT AND EXPECTED CONCRETE RECOMMENDATIONS ON ANTI-ARMOR IMPROVEMENTS TO RESULT. THE FRG SUPPORTED THE UK
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POSITION. THE NETHERLANDS ASKED WHAT ACTION COULD BE TAKEN TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE REPORT.

3. THE U.S. REP (B/GEN BOWMAN) TOOK THE POSITION THAT THE REPORT

WAS EXTREMELY USEFUL AND THAT THE SUGGESTED STANDARD OF 24 HEAVY AND 27 MEDIUM ANTI-ARMOR WEAPONS PER BATTALION SHOULD BE TAKEN AS A STARTING POINT FOR A DECEMBER EWG RECOMMENDATION, WHILE THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES PROCEEDED TO CONSIDER REGIONAL VARIATIONS AND FURTHER ANALYSIS OF TACTICAL AIR, HELICOPTERS AND BARRIERS. ANALYSIS SHOULD CONTINUE, BUT THERE SHOULD BE SPECIFIC ACTION STARTED IN DECEMBER BASED ON WHAT WAS ALREADY KNOWN.

4. THE SHAPE REP (B/GEN MILLER) DISCUSSED THE ON-GOING SHAPE TECHNICAL CENTER STUDY ON ANTI-ARMOR WHICH IS PROGRAMMED TO CONTINUE INTO 1975. HE STATED THAT ARRIVING AT STANDARDS FOR ANTI-ARMOR WEAPONS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE BUT WOULD BE A VERY DIFFICULT PROBLEM. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE DESIGNER OF AN INFANTRY BATTALION HAS A COMPLEX DESIGN PROBLEM WHEN HE CONSIDERS DOUBLING ANTI-TANK WEAPONS. HE MUST LOOK AT ONE NATION AND ONE BATTALION AT A TIME, WEIGHING LOGISTICS AND MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS ETC. THE DRG REP AGREED THAT MILITARY FEEDBACK WAS ESSENTIAL AND STATED THAT THIS WAS IN PROGRESS IN THE UK, BUT INSISTED THAT PROGRESS TOWARD STANDARDS SHOULD BE POSSIBLE BY DECEMBER.

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